

Message Text

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03411 01 OF 02 041759Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----037678 041806Z /42

P 041746Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1188
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 03411

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE DELEGATION

FOR NEA SAUNDERS FROM VELIOTES

E.O.12065: GDS 6/4/85 (MAYHEW, PHILIP R.)OR-M
TAGS: PEPR, JO, US, XF
SUBJECT: (C) TRIP TO AREA BY AMBASSADOR STRAUSS

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. SINCE SECRETARY HAS NOW STATED THAT AMBASSADOR STRAUSS WILL VISIT AREA IN LATE JUNE, AND KING HUSSEIN HAS WEL-COMED VISIT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INDICATIONS DEPART-MENT CAN GIVE US ON ITINERARY AND TIMING. KING HUSSEIN IS LEAVING ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO ALGERIA JUNE 4, FOLLOWING WHICH HE WILL GO TO PARIS FOR AIR SHOW AND THEN TO LONDON ON PRIVATE VISIT. WE BELIEVE HE WILL RETURN TO JORDAN ABOUT JUNE 19. IF STRAUSS VISIT SHOULD SLIP TO EARLY JULY, WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ALERT THE KING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOLLOWING ARE MY PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT HERE.

3. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ON HIS INITIAL VISIT HERE AMBASSADOR STRAUSS PLAN TO STAY AT LEAST TWO FULL DAYS TO REAP BEST POLITICAL BENEFITS. AT ALL COSTS, HE SHOULD AVOID IMPRESSION THAT AMMAN VISIT IS "STOPOVER" BETWEEN INTENSIVE TALKS ELSEWHERE SINCE THIS WOULD ALIENATE HUSSEIN AND WOULD BE DEEPLY RESENTED BY JORDANIANS IN GENERAL. IN THIS RESPECT, I ASSUME ALL CONCERNED AGREE

WE SHOULD NOT RPT NOT REPEAT PAST MISTAKES AND TAKE FULLEST ADVANTAGE OF JORDANIAN RECEPTIVENESS TO PERSONAL TOUCH IN ORDER TO DO SOME "CREATIVE POLITICKING."

4. IN OUR VIEW, STRAUSS' FIRST VISIT HERE SHOULD HAVE TWO BASIC OBJECTIVES: (1) GIVE FIRM IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. CHIEF NEGOTIATOR IS PERSONALLY INTERESTED IN JORDAN ITSELF AS WELL AS ITS POTENTIAL ROLE IN RESOLVING ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES; (2) TAKE ADVANTAGE OF WORLD'S LARGEST PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO OPEN "DIALOGUE" WITH REPRESENTATIVE NON-PLO PALESTINIANS. BOTH GOALS REINFORCE ONE ANOTHER, AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENT IN FIRST VISIT CAN LAY BASIS OF DEVELOPMENT OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR STRAUSS, JORDANIAN LEADERSHIP AND CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY WHO COULD BE IMPORTANT LATER IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. REGARDING FIRST GOAL, THE AMBASSADOR'S ITINERARY SHOULD BE STRUCTURED TO GIVE HIM HIGH VISIBILITY IN ACQUAINTING HIMSELF WITH JORDANIAN NATIONAL GOALS AND PROBLEMS, AS WELL AS ENGAGING ON PEACE PROCESS. IDEALLY, HE WOULD HAVE MEETINGS WITH KING HUSSEIN AND ALSO SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH OTHER SELECTED ADVISERS HERE. AT LEAST ONE MEETING WITH HUSSEIN SHOULD BE VERY RESTRICTED, PERHAPS A CONFIDENTIAL

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DEPARTURE CALL ON FINAL DAY, IN ORDER TO TRY TO DEVELOP SOME SENSE OF INTIMACY. IN ADDITION, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR STRAUSS TO SEE SOME OF JORDAN, INCLUDING GOJ'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY U.S.-ASSISTED PROJECTS SUCH AS JORDAN VALLEY AND MAQARIN DAM SITE, PERHAPS TO RECEIVE MILITARY BRIEFING BY JAF, AND TO MEET VARIETY OF JORDANIANS. (AN EXPOSURE TO MAQARIN PROBLEM, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD GIVE HIM PERSPECTIVE ON INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF WATER HERE WHICH IS RELATED TO KEY ISSUE IN NEGOTIATIONS OF POWERS OF SGA, I.E., WATER IN WEST BANK/ ISRAEL/JORDAN.)

6. STRAUSS VISIT WOULD BE EXTENSIVELY COVERED BY MEDIA. IN A SENSE, AMBASSADOR WOULD BE "CAMPAIGNING" FOR JORDANIAN CONFIDENCE AND WE BELIEVE OUR INTERESTS WOULD BE WELL-SERVED BY WIDE EXPOSURE TO JORDANIANS. HIS ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE REMARKS WILL BE ON THE RECORD, OF COURSE. I WISH TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON WHETHER ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WITH PRESS HERE SHOULD BE ON THE RECORD. IF PUSHED AT PRESENT FOR RECOMMENDATION, I WOULD LEAN TOWARDS RESTRICTED SESSIONS, PROBABLY ON BACKGROUND BASIS, TO FACILITATE CANDOR IN EXCHANGES. LOCAL PRESS SCENE COMPLICATED BY UNEVEN JOURNALISTIC AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE PLUS TENDENCY OF PRESS AS GROUP TO DISCUSS ISSUES IN PUBLIC FROM LOWEST COMMON PAN ARAB DENOMINATOR.

7. REGARDING THE EXPOSURE TO PALESTINIANS, WE PRESUME
AMBASSADOR STRAUSS' VISIT WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH THE FIRST
OPPORTUNITY ON THE GROUND TO MEET REPRESENTATIVE NON-PLO
PALESTINIANS. WE BELIEVE HE SHOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY
NOT ONLY TO OPEN A DIALOGUE WITH A SMALL NUMBER OF THE

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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 AMMAN 03411

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE DELEGATION

FOR NEA SAUNDERS FROM VELIOTES

MOST ARTICULATE, WELL-EDUCATED, AND MODERATE REPRESENTATIVES, BUT ALSO TO DEMONSTRATE THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THEIR PROBLEMS RECENTLY REITERATED BY THE PRESIDENT. WE HAVE IN MIND TAKING STRAUSS TO AN UNRWA REFUGEE CAMP TO SEE HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION OF THE PROBLEM. WE ALSO WOULD WISH TO SET UP ONE OR MORE MEETINGS WITH MODERATE NON-PLO PALESTINIANS FOR GIVE-AND-TAKE ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND ON CDA. MEETINGS SHOULD BE SMALL, PERHAPS SIX PALESTINIANS PLUS STRAUSS AND FEW OTHER AMERICANS, TO PROVIDE ATMOSPHERE FOR MAXIMUM FRANKNESS. WE CAN EXPECT THAT PARTICIPANTS IN SUCH MEETINGS WILL SPREAD THE WORD RE EXCHANGE AND MEETINGS WILL BE PERCEIVED BY PALESTINIANS AS IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO PUT THEIR CONCERNS DIRECTLY TO CHIEF FIGURE IN NEGOTIATIONS VITAL TO THEIR FUTURE. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WOULD OFFER U.S. OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE LEADING MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY OF OUR UNDERSTANDING,
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IF NOT AGREEMENT, WITH THEIR POINTS OF VIEW. WE BELIEVE SUCH EARLY CONTACTS WITH PALESTINIANS ARE BASIC TO OUR EFFORTS TO TRY TO CONVINCE THEM TO EVENTUALLY ASSOCIATE

THEMSELVES IN SOME SYSTEMATIC WAY WITH NEGOTIATIONS.

8. I DISCUSSED STRAUSS VISIT WITH GEORGE SHERMAN WHO WILL
BE BRINGING TO WASHINGTON ADDITIONAL IDEAS AND DETAILS.
VELIOTES

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